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MEN OF WAR

THE FORTRESS OF REMANCHANT IS FINISHED! NO AMERIKANER WOULD DARE ATTACK US NOW!

Joe Kubert

NO ONE--BUT THE MAN WITH THE CODE NAME: GRAVEDIGGER!

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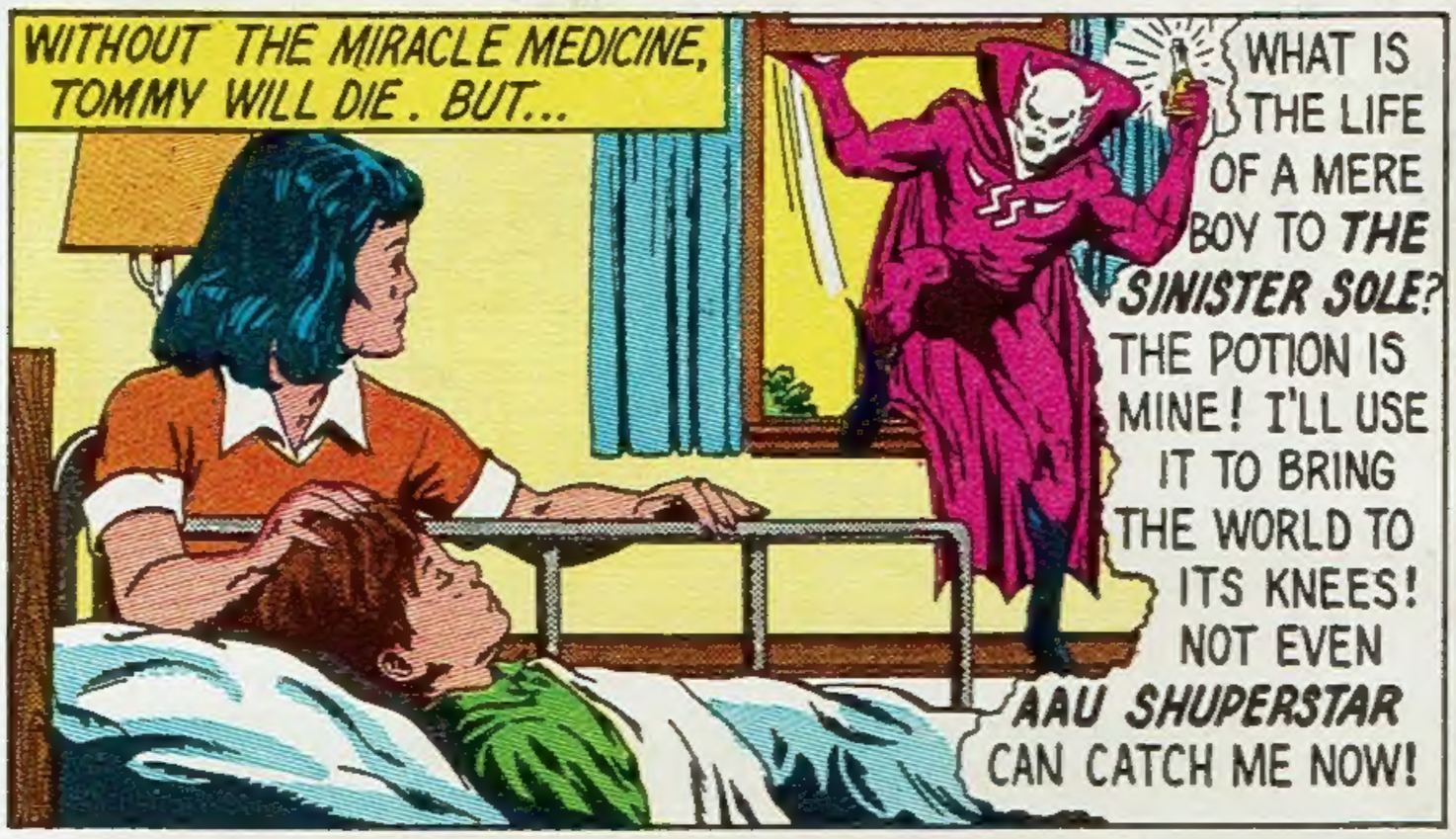
AAU SHUPERSTAR© VS. THE SINISTER SOLE IN "A RACE FOR LIFE!"


WITHOUT THE MIRACLE MEDICINE, TOMMY WILL DIE. BUT...
WHAT IS THE LIFE OF A MERE BOY TO *THE SINISTER SOLE?*
THE POTION IS MINE! I'LL USE IT TO BRING THE WORLD TO ITS KNEES! NOT EVEN *AAU SHUPERSTAR* CAN CATCH ME NOW!

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CODE NAME: Gravedigger

HANDLER OF THE DEAD: A RATHER IGNOBLE POSITION FOR A MAN SOON TO BECOME LEGEND. BUT THEN, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT WAR IS LONG ON LOGIC. JUST ASK ULYSSES HAZARD, A MAN WHO HAD TO FIGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY--BUT HIS OWN COUNTRY--TO EARN THE...

NIGHT'S AS LOUSY AS THIS STINKIN' MISSION! GOTTA RECOVER SOME STOLEN FRENCH ART THE NAZIS'RE HOLDIN'--

--THERE--AT REMANCHANT--AN ABANDONED PRISON STUCK OUT IN THE MIDDLE O' NOWHERE--

--'FORE ALLIED BOMBERS LEVEL THE WHOLE BLAMED MOUNTAIN! ONLY I CAN'T FIGGER WHY A BUNCH O' OLD PAINTIN'S ARE WORTH ALL THE...

FRAULEIN! HALT!!

A CHOICE OF DEATHS

ROGER McKENZIE, WRITER
DICK AYERS & ROMEO TANGHAL, ARTISTS
CLEM ROBINS, LETTERER
JERRY SERPE, COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ, EDITOR

...TROUBLE?!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, SCHWEIN--

N-NO... PUFF...!

--EXCEPT IN DEATH! VAS--!?

AMERIKANER!

OHHHHHH--!

BRAM!

BLAMM!

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BRUPPARUP

SO MUCH FOR THAT, EH, MY FRIENDS?

JA, FRANZ! THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE VERDAMMT AMERIKANER--
--OR THE JEW! BOTH MUST BE...

...DEAD! I AM SURE I...

SSSSSSS

...I...

M-Mein Gott--!

SSSSSS

THUNK

KA-BLAM

H-HELP...

:KOFF!...!

WHA--? THE GIRL-- SHE'S STILL ALIVE--

--BUT JUST BARELY! RIVER'S CURRENT'S GETTIN' STRONGER --SWEEPIN' HER HELPLESSLY DOWNSTREAM--

"--WHICH MEANS SHE MUST BE AWFUL CLOSE TO THAT WATERFALL COMSEC BRIEFED ME ON!"

HURRY! GRAB MY HAND --HE AIN'T GOT MUCH TIME LEFT!

T-TOO... :GLUB:... TOO LATE! CAN'T... :KAFF:... S-SWIM!

NO...IT AIN'T NEVER TOO LATE! NOT IF... YOU DON'T ...GIVE UP...

...DON'T... GIVE... UP! :UNGH!: GOT YA!

NOW ...IF I CAN JUST--

GOT IT!

FEELS LIKE CURRENT'S... RIPPIN' MY ARMS OUTA THEIR SOCKETS...BUT I GOTTA HOLD ON!

I-IT'S NO USE...:GLUG:... CAPTAIN!..I...I CAN'T MAKE IT. BUT PROMISE ME YOU'LL...:KAFF: FREE MY FRIENDS...FAMILY...

...N-NAZIS HOLDING THEM... REMANCHANT! PROMISE ME--

I'LL DO MY BEST, LADY, BUT FIRST WE GOTTA--

KAR-RAKK-K-

TREES ROTTEN-- CAN'T SUPPORT OUR WEIGHT!

AND THERE IS NO MOVEMENT, SAVE THE CASCADING WATER THAT POUNDS RELENTLESSLY AGAINST JAGGED BOULDERS...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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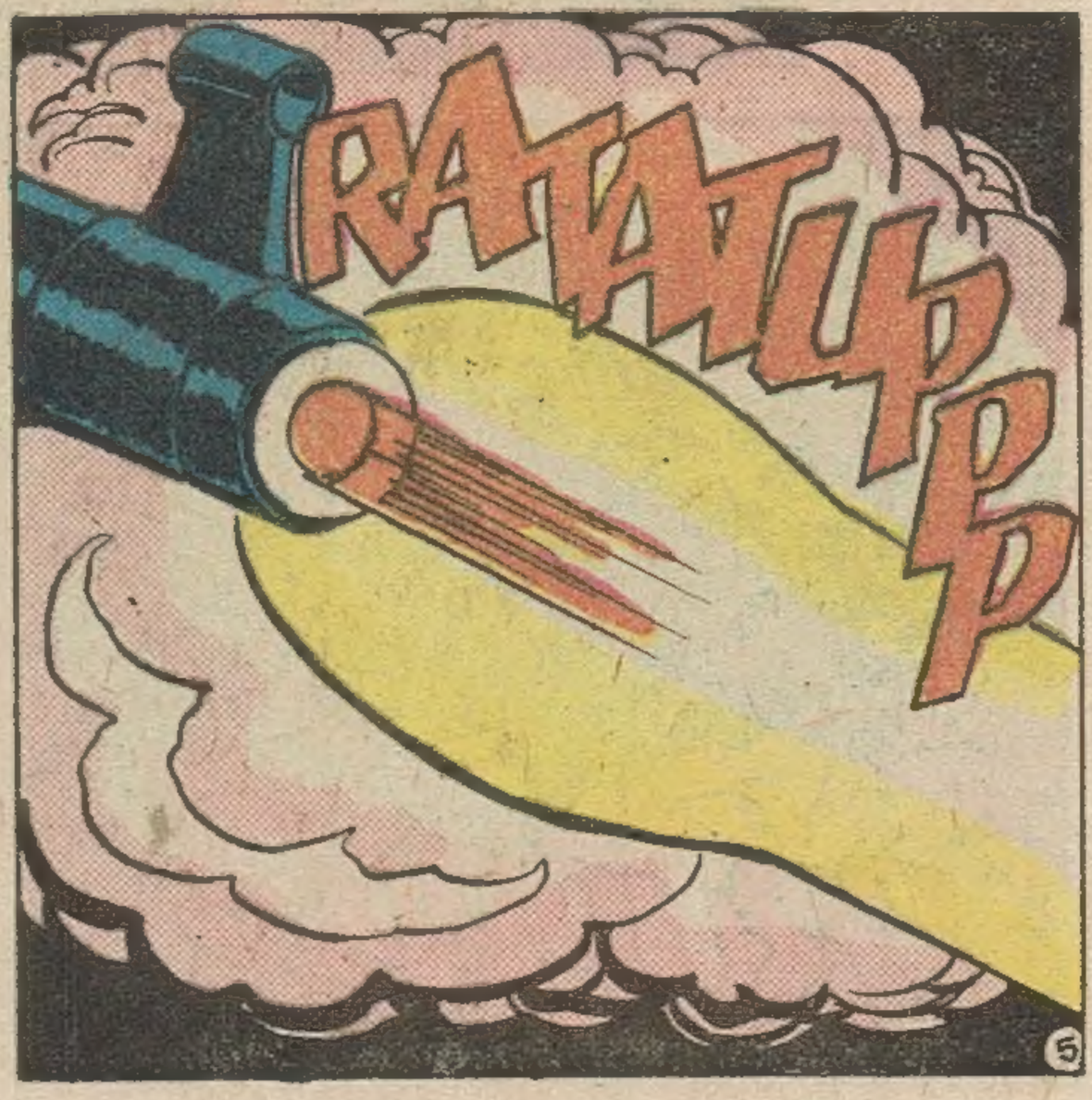
...UNTIL...

KLIKKKK


RATATATUP
P

INTERLUDE

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND...

IT IS JUST AHEAD, MAJOR BIRCH*...

*FIRST SEEN IN ISSUE #3.--PAUL

...YOUR NEW HOME...AND BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR PROJECT: GRAVEDIGGER!

SO--THE RUMORS WERE TRUE--

--THE VERDAMMT, STUBBORN BRITISH ARE UP TO SOMETHING! BUT THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED--FOR THE THIRD REICH WILL ENDURE A THOUSAND, THOUSAND YEARS!

HEIL HITLER! AND THIS SO-CALLED "PROJECT: GRAVEDIGGER" WILL BE CRUSHED LIKE GRAIN BENEATH A MILLER'S WHEEL--AS WILL ENGLAND ITSELF!

BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME--RIGHT NOW, WE'D BETTER MAKE SURE CAPTAIN ULYSSES HAZARD'S STILL ALIVE AND--

--KICKING MY GUN ASIDE! IT VAS A TRICK!

H-HEAD'S SPINNIN' LIKE A BLASTED TOP! HAZARD...

...YOU BETTER GIT THIS OVER WITH --PRONTO!

VAS? YOU STILL STRUGGLE AGAINST ARYAN SUPERIORITY, SCHWARZ? ACCEPT YOUR FATE, AMERIKANER, AND I SHALL BE MERCI--

--FULLLLLLL--!

UNGHH--!

BRUPPPP!

FRITZ, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR MERCY AN' SHOVE IT!

REMANCHART: SHADOWS ARE DEEP HERE AND THIS NIGHT THE COLD, GREY-STONE WALLS ECHO WITH THE SHARP STACATTO OF HOB-NAILED BOOTS...

KLAK- KLK- KLAK-

...AND...

VAS--?

THAKK!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN--

--N-NOTHING... -CHOKE-...THAT SH-SHADOW-- WHO--?

A-AMERIKANER!

MY FRIENDS CALL ME HAZARD, KRAUT-- BUT YOU...

...YOU CAN CALL ME --GRAVEDIGGER...

...WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!

IT IS AN ANCIENT PLACE, THIS GRIM, LIFELESS PRISON.

THE AIR IS DANK AND CLAMMY--WHISPERING WITH A LOW, MOURNFUL WAIL...

...AS IF REMEMBERING THE ETERNAL PAIN OF THOUSANDS OF WASTED LIVES...AND EQUALLY WASTED DEATHS...

GOOD LORD--!

...BUT NOTHING... ABSOLUTELY NOTHING...

...COULD EVER COMPARE WITH THE SHEER HORROR OF THIS MOMENT...

--CHILD WILL DIE, UNLESS THE LEADER OF THE LOCAL UNDERGROUND STEPS FORWARD AND IDENTIFIES HIMSELF!

NOW!!

NON--! POOR ANNIE!

...OR TO THE OVERWHELMING GALLANTRY OF THE NEXT...

[redacted] THE CHILD, I AM THE LEADER!

NON-- IT IS I!

THEY LIE! I AM THE ONE YOU SEEK!

NON--! I AM HE!

MAYBE I CAN SOLVE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM FOR YA-- PERMANENTLY!

UFF!

AMERIKANER SCHWEIN!

SCHWARZ! DROP YOUR GUN OR ELSE I RELEASE THE ROPE!

A MOMENTARY FLICKER OF INDECISION CLOUDS GRAVEDIGGER'S FACE...

...AND IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND, A TINY, INNOCENT LIFE IS LAID ON THE LINE!

YOU WEAK, SENTIMENTAL FOOL! THE GIRL MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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HI, WONDER WOMAN.

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BOSCH

NO--!

SSCHHHHHHHH

NO--!

SSCHHHHHKKKKKK

:SOB!:

NO!

KA-THUNNK!

KACHOKK

FOR GOD'S SAKE... HURRY... I CAN'T HOLD... THIS DAMNED BLADE... =UNGHH!=... MUCH LONGER!

BUT NO SOONER THAN THE CHILD IS FREED...

LOOK OUT! NAZI REPLACEMENTS!

BAM!

WE GOTTA GIT OUTA HERE--

WHILE WE STILL CAN!

C'MON--!

BA-RAAP!

B-BUT, MONSIEUR--

VIIING!

VIP!

WHAT OF OUR PICTURES? ALL OUR PRETTY PICTURES?

KSPAAAN!

OH--!

LITTLE LADY, RIGHT NOW WE AIN'T GOT TIME TO ARGUE THE POINT!

BA-RAAP

10

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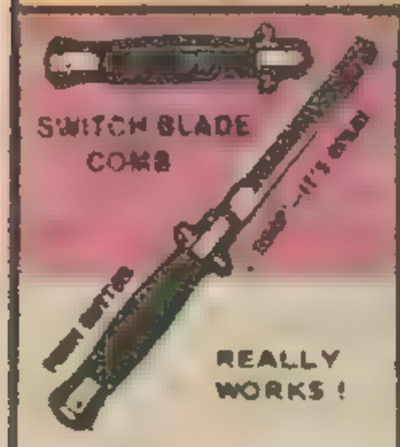

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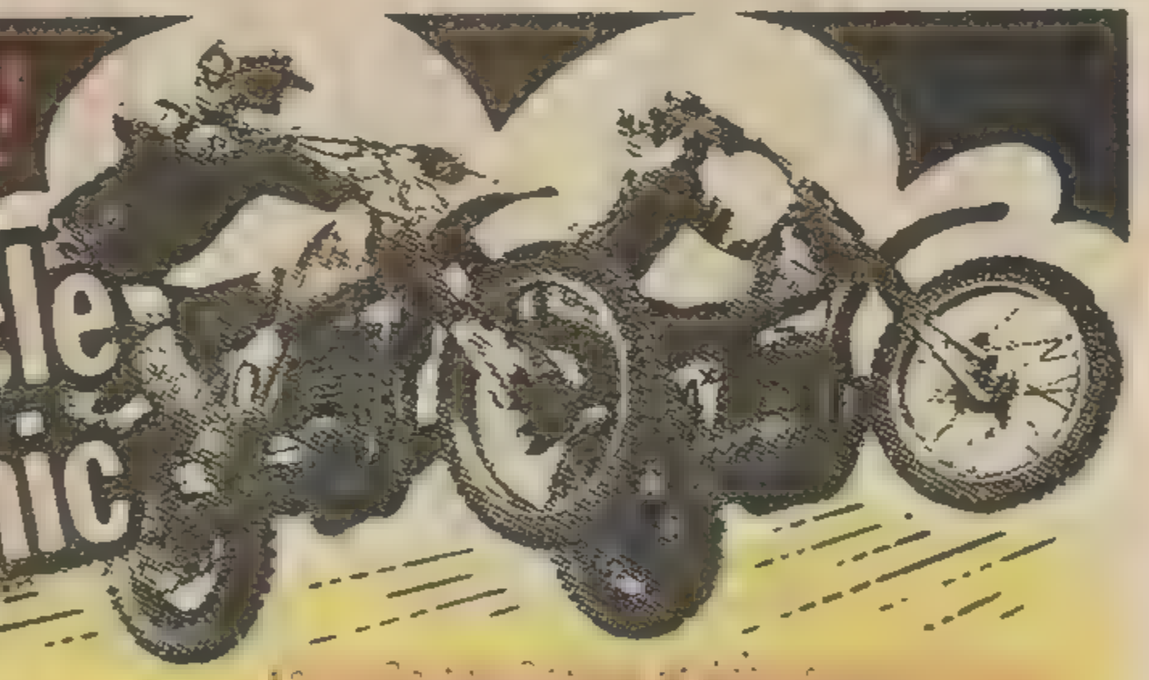

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:UNGHHH:

TO SOME, WORTH FIGHTING FOR...

...AND DYING FOR...

VIING!

SPWANG!

...BECAUSE WITHOUT THE PAST, THERE CAN BE NO FUTURE.

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE LADY, AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA HAPPEN TO YER PICTURE --OR TO YOU!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

DAMN...IT BRINGS WITH IT THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM...A NEW BEGINNING AND...

ALLIED BOMBERS!

RUMMG!

VPWWW!

VRAAM

EVER'BODY DOWN! AN' STAY DOWN!

EPILOGUE... A FEW HOURS LATER...

IT'S VERY PRETTY, ISN'T IT?

IT'S A FINE PORTRAIT, LITTLE LADY...

...BUT IT CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO YOU!

C'MON --LET'S GO HOME.

THE END

NEXT ISSUE:

* GRAVEDIGGER'S FIRST *NOVEL-LENGTH* OUTING!
* THE SECRET OF THE CHAUFFEUR!
* AND AN UNLIKELY OUTING CALLED "MILKRUN!"

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Dear Paul and Associates,

Like Gustavo Baron (**MOW #3**), I have never been particularly fond of "war comics." The usual casts failed to move or entertain me. When I read them, it was more often for the art (thanks to Joe Kubert, Russ Heath and Neal Adams, among others) than the stories.

MEN OF WAR is different. I continue to enjoy the art, but something has definitely changed. I find myself paying more attention to the stories, getting involved with the characters, and beginning to care about them.

Gravedigger is unique. His situation is (in war comics, if not "real life") also unique and filled with infinite possibilities. Although I enjoyed his origin, I'm curious about his upbringing. I'd like to know more about the personal forces in his life that led up to this.

Enemy Ace has never seemed so charismatic, so mysterious. Like the men in his Jagdstaffel I feel a certain sense of awe in his presence. Although I have read many earlier tales of his, I have never experienced his character as fully as in **MOW**. This is some of the best stuff Kanigher has ever written.

Although I can readily see the advantages of full-length stories, I really like **both** characters now starring in the book and would hate to wait three or four months for their next adventure, should you alternate them. And I would truly detest it should you eliminate either of them.

If you do opt for alternating the characters, is there a chance you could come out monthly? Is there a chance you could come out monthly, anyway? Or give everyone on the staff praise, pay raises and supplications, and come-out with a bi-monthly 60¢ edition?

The idea about regaling the adventures of a war correspondent has merit. How about a sort of Woodward & Bernstein reportorial duo, one immanently practical/stodgy, the other impulsive—always getting involved with the people whom war affects, dragging his reluctant companion off on dangerous (and thoroughly unjournalistic) missions? Or if you opt for a single character, maybe you could have him/her attempt to deal with the problem of "objective conscience"i.e., how does it feel to be reporting about a battle "our side" is losing, and not attempt to stave-off that defeat? In any case, please don't axe either **Enemy Ace** or **Gravedigger** to make way for the newcomer. (I really favor the idea of a bi-monthly 60¢ **MOW!**).

Bruce Scott
4487 E. Sierra Madre
Fresno, CA 93726

Some of the issues you mentioned were covered by the three-part *Dateline: Frontline* series that ends this issue, Bruce, and although we regret having to shelve Enemy Ace for the duration, we think the terrific job Cary Burkett and Jerry Grandinetti did was worth it. But the Hammer of Hell will be back in #8, after time out for Gravedigger's first full-length adventure.

As for the possibilities of a 60¢ *MOW* with three features . . . well, let's just say that you might find a pleasant surprise waiting for you on the newsstand this summer.—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Paul,

Should **MEN OF WAR** contain one or two series, that is the question. Well, I, for one, wouldn't mind seeing **Gravedigger** utilize all 17 pages. It would give you more room for sub-plots and characterizations. You can't fit much into an 11 page story. Get rid of **Enemy Ace** and give **Gravedigger** room to breathe.

I like where you're going with **Gravedigger**. His almost suicidal determination to prove himself to everyone makes for some exciting reading. The prejudice portrayed by many of the military men is both tragic and sickening. If one didn't know about the mass bigotry which really pervaded this country (and still, unfortunately does) you'd think that the experiences of Ulysses Hazard were fiction, instead of non-fiction. **DC** is to be commended for producing a comic that shows past mistakes, and doesn't hide them up, pretending they never existed.

David Michelinie certainly has a flair for the dramatic. The juggling sequence on page 9 struck me as both funny and terrifying at the same time. I can almost picture the scene happening in a movie.

As far as **Enemy Ace** goes (and that's not very far), the series lacks any interest for me. While the idea of the ghostly pilots against Von Hammer may have been a good one, the exciting confrontations between the antagonists didn't amount to much. I'm not really a fan of Bob Kanigher anyway—his tales are usually too simplistic and don't have enough depth to suit me.

Finally, you want to know how **MEN OF WAR** rates with other **DC** war mags. Well, **the Unknown Soldier** still holds down the number one spot, but **MEN OF WAR** comes in second. Maybe that's because those are the only two war mags I buy! And the way **MEN OF WAR** is going, I'll probably keep buying as long as you keep 'em coming.

Mike Bates
3414 Lexington
Pontiac, MI 48054

Since we also edit THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, we can't complain too loudly about coming in second to ourselves. But then occasionally the right hand can be jealous of what the left hand's doing.—PL.

* * * * *

A funny thing happened to me on the way to this letter-col, reader; I had too many literate, intelligent letters to squeeze onto the page. For a super-hero comic that wouldn't be unusual—for a war comic, it's record-breaking. Thank you all very much for your enlightened criticism, and your involvement—and I hope I get surprises like this one often.

—Paul Levitz

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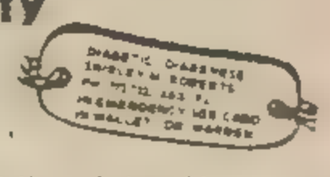

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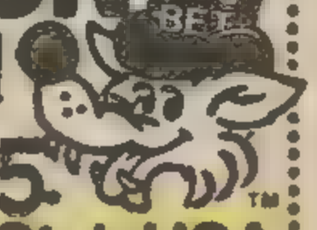

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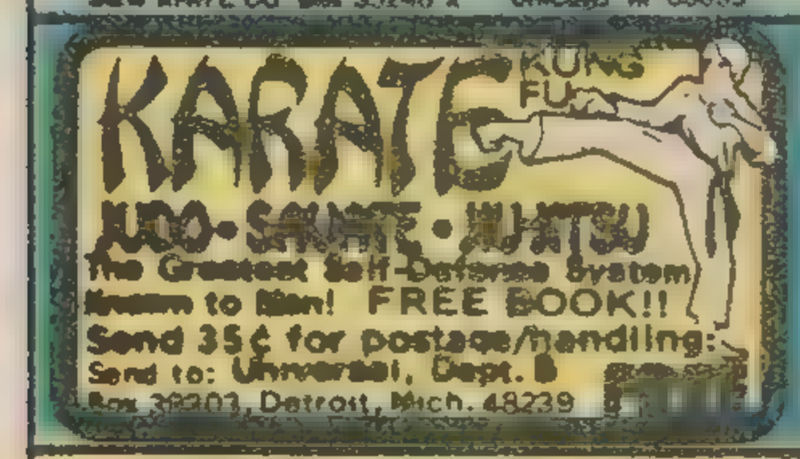

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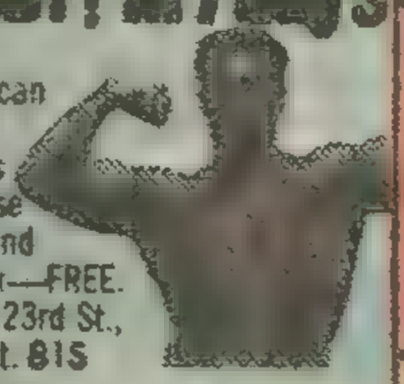

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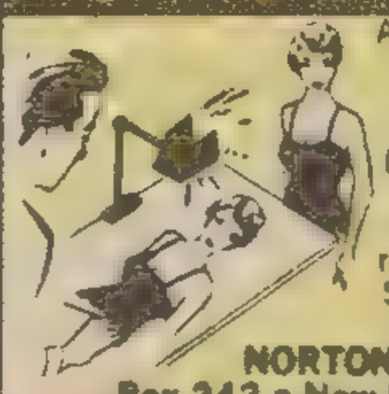

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EXTRA

The New York Courier

EXTRA

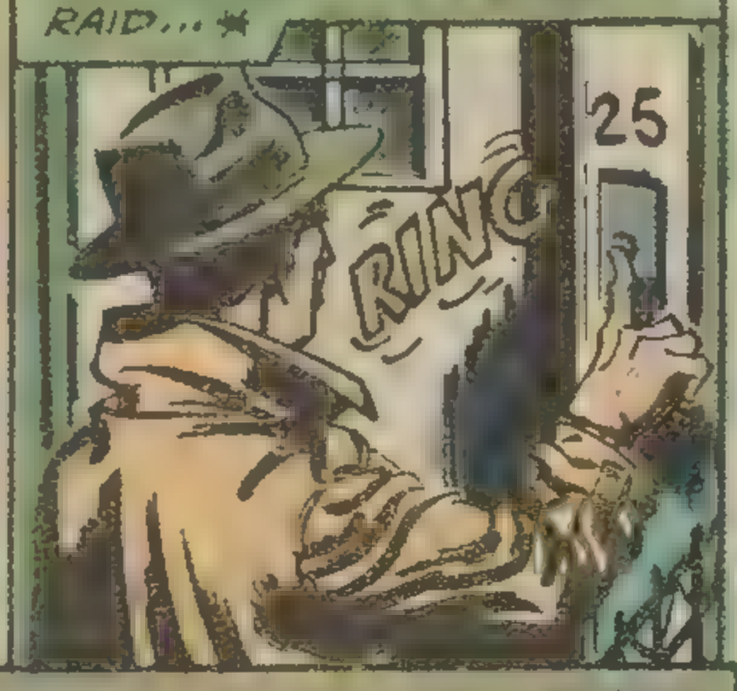
FRIDAY SEPT. 12, 1940

DATELINE: FRONTLINE

YOU KNOW, THE CONSCIENCE IS A STRANGE THING. IT DOESN'T FOLLOW ANY KIND OF LOGICAL PATTERN--IT CAN POP UP AT ANY TIME, WHETHER THERE'S A REASON FOR IT OR NOT.

AND MY CONSCIENCE HAD ME OUT EARLY IN THE EVENING, FORCING MY RELUCTANT FEET TO A CERTAIN ADDRESS IN EAST LONDON...

I REALLY HADN'T KNOWN JULIE VERY WELL -- I HAD ONLY JUST MET HER, BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED IN A BOMBING RAID...*



...BUT SOMEHOW I FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH... BECAUSE I HAD FAILED TO SAVE HER.

*LAST ISSUE--PAUL.

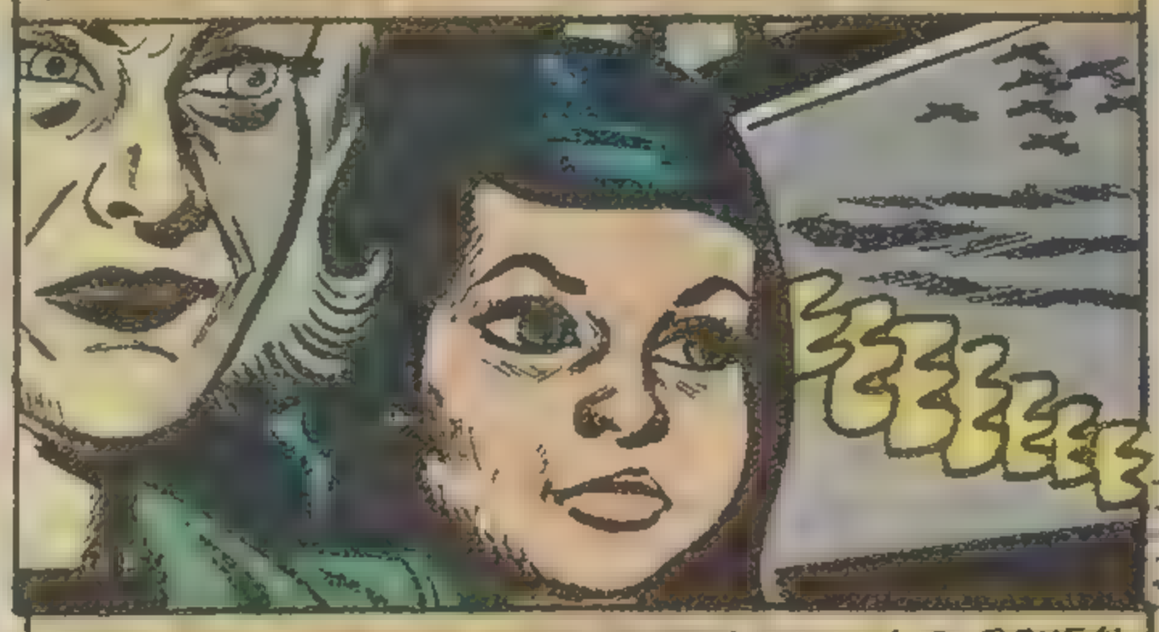
I GUESS THAT'S WHY I FELT IT WAS MY DUTY TO BE THE ONE TO BRING THE NEWS OF HER DEATH TO HER FAMILY.

A CONSCIENCE IS LIKE THAT, SOMETIMES.

IT ISN'T EASY TO TELL A MOTHER ABOUT THE DEATH OF HER CHILD--ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT MOTHER HAS NO HUSBAND TO SHARE THE GRIEF.

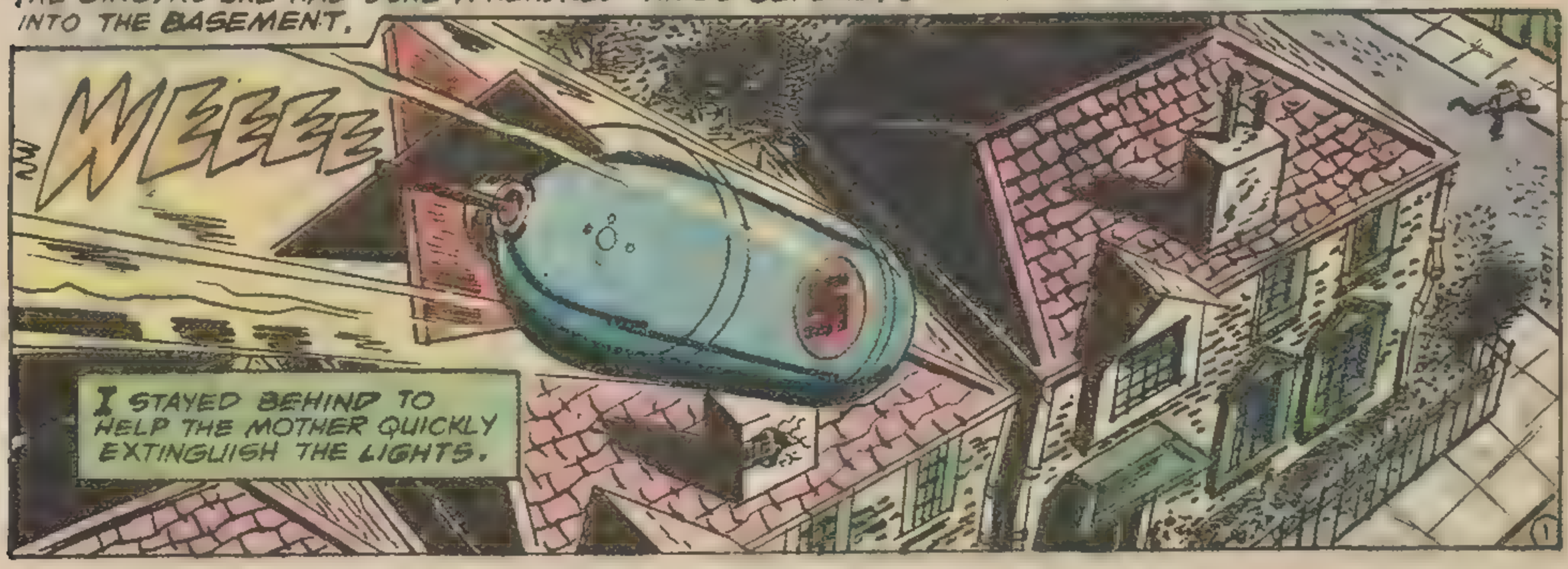
AND THE GRANDFATHER SEEMED TO OFFER NO STRENGTH.

BUT AS I LOOKED AT THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER, IT WAS AS IF SHE WERE STARING BACK AT ME WITH JULIE'S EYES...THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE SAME COURAGE AND STRENGTH.



JUST THEN, THE AIR RAID SIREN BEGAN TO SQUEAL, AS THE BOMBS BEGAN TO FALL AGAIN.

THE GIRL, AS SHE HAD DONE A HUNDRED TIMES BEFORE, SWIFTLY HELPED THE GRANDFATHER INTO THE BASEMENT.



EVERY WAR-CORRESPONDENT RISKED HIS LIFE WHEN HE WENT INTO A BATTLE-ZONE. AND I HAD KNOWN THE RISKS THAT SUMMER IN 1940... BUT I NEVER FIGURED I WOULD WIND UP IN A DEADLY...

COUNTDOWN!

WHEN THE BOMB CAME CRASHING THROUGH THE ROOF, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT I WAS A DEAD MAN -- FOLLOWED QUICKLY BY THE IRRATIONAL-IDEA THAT I HAD DRAWN THE BOMB TO JULIE'S FAMILY.

MY CONSCIENCE WAS WORKING OVERTIME.

EEEEEE

HOLY--!

KA-BOOM!

SNOW

CARY BURKETT: WRITER * JERRY GRANDENETTI: ARTIST
MILT SNAPINN: LETTERER * JERRY SERPE: COLORIST

MIRACULOUSLY, THE BOMB HAD NOT EXPLODED, BUT HAD SMASHED THROUGH THE FLOOR INTO THE BASEMENT.

YOU FOLKS ALL RIGHT DOWN THERE?

GRANDFATHER! HE-HE'S CAUGHT! I CAN'T MOVE HIM!

;GASP; DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, VALERIE! J-JUST GET OUT OF HERE!

HE'S REALLY *PINNED* ALL RIGHT! BUT DON'T WORRY! IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE *TIME*, BUT--

WE DON'T *HAVE* ANY TIME!-:GASP: TH-THE *BOMB!*

MY HEART FROZE IN MY CHEST LIKE A LUMP OF ICE, WHEN I HEARD THE SOUND...

TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK

THE RICKETY OLD STAIRS GROANED THREATENINGLY AS I RACED UP THEM--THEY HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY THE FALLING BOMB --BUT I PAID THEM NO MIND...

...THAT WAS SOMETHING I WOULD REGRET LATER.

DON'T *PANIC!* I'LL GET *HELP!* VALERIE, YOU COME WITH *ME!*

I DIDN'T WAIT TO SEE IF THE GIRL OBEYED ME, BUT HURRIED THE MOTHER OUTSIDE, AND GRABBED THE FIRST CIVILIAN DEFENSE WORKER I COULD FIND...

YOU! LISTEN! I NEED *HELP!* THERE'S AN OLD MAN *TRAPPED* IN THE BASEMENT WITH AN *UNEXPLODED BOMB!*

BLIMEY! DON'T WORRY, MATE! I'LL HELP! LEAD THE WAY!

I KNEW THAT MOST OF THE BRITISH CD'S HAD BEEN TRAINED IN DEFUSING SUCH BOMBS--AND I ONLY PRAYED THAT THIS ONE HAD LEARNED HIS LESSONS WELL!

QUICKLY, MAN! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

BUT THEN...

LOOK OUT! THE STAIRS--UMMPH!

UNNGGHH!

CRASH

AS THE WEAKENED STAIRS COLLAPSED, I WAS THROWN CLEAR. BUT THE CD WORKER WASN'T SO LUCKY...

UNN... I... I'M CAUGHT!... CAN'T MOVE!

I-I THINK MY BACK IS B-BROKEN!

NO! NO! YOU'VE GOT TO GET FREE! YOU'VE GOT TO DEFUSE THE BOMB!

AGGHH! DON'T, MATE, DON'T! ;GASP; YOU'LL KILL ME IF YOU DRAG ME OUT!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE BOMB!

I STARED AT THE MAN AS IF HE WERE INSANE, AND FELT MY LEGS TURN TO JELLY BENEATH ME...

M-ME!? BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT BOMBS! I'M A REPORTER!

I-I CAN'T DO IT!

;CHOKE; YOU'VE GOT TO! OR YOU, ME, THE OLD MAN, AND THE GIRL ARE OUT OF THIS WAR... FOREVER!

VALERIE!

SHE HADN'T FOLLOWED ME OUTSIDE TO SAFETY, AND NOW SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE BASE-MENT WITH THE REST OF US, WITH NO WAY OUT...

TIK TIK TIK

...AND I WAS OUR ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL!

4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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☐ No. 776 $1.00

SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
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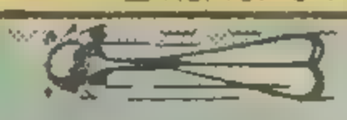

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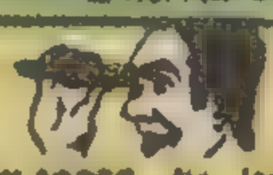

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I WAS ALMOST PARALYZED WITH TERROR... SOMEHOW THE IDEA OF THE BOMB BLOWING UP IN MY FACE SEEMED INFINITELY WORSE THAN JUST STANDING BY WHEN IT EXPLODED...

TiK

...EVEN THOUGH I'D BE JUST AS DEAD, EITHER WAY..

GO ON, MAN. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

TiK TiK TiK TiK TiK

AS THE CD WORKER GUIDED ME, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH I COULD SEE JULIE THERE WITH ME.

TiK TiK TiK TiK TiK

I HADN'T BEEN FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE HER LIFE, AND IT WAS ALMOST AS IF FATE WAS GIVING ME A CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT...

AS THE MINUTES DRAGGED BY, THE HEAT INCREASED...

YOU...YOU'RE DOING... FINE, MATE! DON'T GET...IN A HURRY...

ONLY THING LEFT... TO DO... THE...THE... RED...

WHAT--?! NO! HE PASSED OUT!

TiK TiK TiK TiK TiK

I FELT AN ALMOST UNCONTROLLABLE URGE TO SCREAM... BUT, ABSURDLY, I THOUGHT OF MY EDITOR IN THE STATES, AND WONDERED HOW HE'D RUN THE STORY OF MY DEATH...

THE THOUGHT MADE ME WANT TO LAUGH AND CRY AT THE SAME TIME... BUT IT ALSO CALMED ME SOMEWHAT, AND I WAS ABLE TO CONCENTRATE...

RED..THE LAST THING HE SAID WAS RED! MAYBE...MAYBE HE MEANT THAT RED WIRE!

IN THE SPACE OF TWO SECONDS, I MUST'VE PRAYED A HUNDRED PRAYERS, AS I REACHED OUT TO DISCONNECT THE EVIL-LOOKING WIRE...

SNAP

TiK TiK TiK TiK TiK

IT--IT'S STOPPED TICKING! IT'S OVER... WE'RE SAFE!

A HUNDRED MORE PRAYERS WENT UP IN A HEARTBEAT.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, VALERIE! I SAID, WE'RE SAFE!

I HEARD YOU.

THEN WHAT'S WRONG?

HE WAS DEAD. I FELT THAT MY WHOLE ACTION HAD BEEN FOR NOTHING! MY PRAYERS OF A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE BECAME CURSES!

I HAD FAILED! FAILED THE GRANDFATHER... AND FAILED JULIE!

BUT AS I LOOKED DOWN AT VALERIE, A STRANGE EMOTION MOVED WITHIN ME... AND I SEEMED TO SEE JULIE AGAIN... A NEW JULIE WITH THE SAME COURAGE AND DETERMINATION AS BEFORE...

...BUT WITH A NEW SENSE... A SENSE OF NEW BEGINNINGS... AND OF NEW HOPE.

AND I REALIZED THAT I HADN'T FAILED. VALERIE WOULD BE ALIVE TO START OVER... TO REBUILD AFTER THE WAR. I HAD HELPED PRESERVE A PART OF JULIE...

...AND EVEN MY DAMN CONSCIENCE COULDN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

End

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL

EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

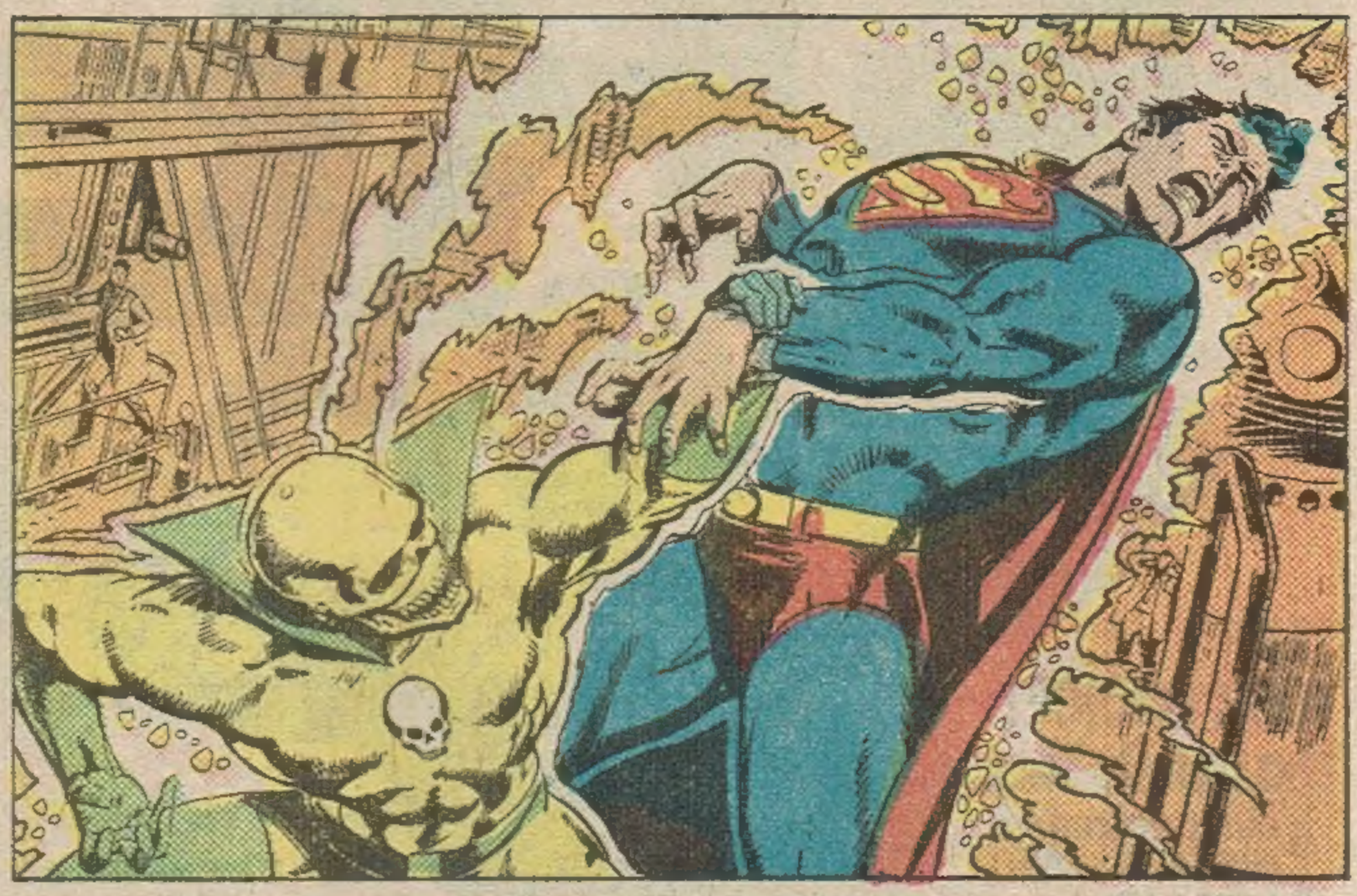
VOLUME 78 ISSUE 5 | WEEK OF JANUARY 30, 1978 | BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

ATOMIC SKULL KIDNAPS S.T.A.R. HEAD

SUPERMAN FACES GAUNTLET OF DOOM

(Cape Edmonton)—The *Atomic Skull* is no ordinary villain! He carries enough energy in his brain to power a spaceship—and now he's used that power to kidnap and imprison Dr. Jenet Klyburn, Director of S.T.A.R. Laboratories.

Only *Superman* can rescue her from a fiendish deathtrap, but to do so, he must run a gauntlet of doom which could mean the end of the Man of Steel! Discover the sinister secret of the *Atomic Skull* and witness the unexpected return of an old *Superman* foe as Martin Pasko, Curt Swan and Dan Adkins present "The Man With the Self-Destruct Mind" in *SUPERMAN #323*. It's on sale the week of February 6th!



FREEDOM FIGHTERS TRAPPED IN SIDESHOWS OF DOOM

(Provincetown, Mass.)—The *Freedom Fighters* working in a carnival sideshow? That's what happens in their latest issue as our hunted heroes take refuge from the law in a carnival owned by Kathy *(Batwoman)* Kane. But who is the mysterious stranger whose sabotage threatens to destroy Kane's Kolossal Karnival?

It's a roller coaster ride of excitement, a loop-de-loop of thrills, and a main tent full of heroes as *Batwoman* and *Batgirl* join *Uncle Sam, The Ray, Phantom Lady,* the *Human Bomb, Black Condor, Doll Man* and *Firebrand* in "The Sideshows of Doom" by Bob Rozakis, Dick Ayers and Jack Abel. Don't miss *FREEDOM FIGHTERS #14* when it goes on sale the week of February 6th.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6th

BATMAN #299—The Caped Crusader solves the mystery of the crimson coffin on the "Island of the Purple Mist" by David V. Reed, John Calnan, and Dick Giordano.

THE FLASH #261—There's a new super-hero in Central City and Iris Allen falls for "The Lure of the Ringmaster" in this Cary Bates/Irv Novick/Frank Giacoia collaboration.

KARATE KID #14—*Robin* guest stars as *Karate Kid* discovers "Diamondeth Is Forever!" by Bob Rozakis, Juan Ortiz and Bruce Patterson.

SHAZAM #35—The *Marvel Family* must travel to Hell in pursuit of *King Kull* in "Backward, Turn Backward, O Time in Your Flight" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Don Newton and Kurt Schaffenberger.

WEIRD WAR TALES #63—War on a mysterious "Battleground" by Roger McKenzie and Ruben Yandoc, plus a battle "To the Last Man" by Jack Oleck and Leo Duranona.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

ACTION COMICS #482/DOORWAY TO NIGHTMARE #3/JONAH HEX #12/JUSTICE LEAGUE #154/MEN OF WAR #6/SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL (Black Canary, Doctor Fate and Lightray)/ STAR HUNTERS #4 / STEEL #2/ WONDER WOMAN #242

LANA LANG'S COMICSWORLD

You've been asking for it! You've been begging for it! You've been demanding it! And now *DC* delivers: The first week in April will see issue *#1* of a brand new magazine devoted to *Superman* and his titanic team-ups with fellow heroes. The first issue features *The Flash* and is sure to be a collector's item! . . . . Good news for you fans of Dollar Comics—there'll be another one coming your way soon as *ADVENTURE COMICS* makes the jump to spectacular size! There's a great line-up ready, but we'll leave that till next time! . . . In the specials department, there's a *FLASH SPECTACULAR* slated for February, a *SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE SPECIAL* in March, and a *SGT. ROCK SPECTACULAR* in April! . . . . *Eclipso* returns in *ADVENTURE COMICS #457* courtesy of Len Wein and Joe Orlando! . . . And over in *SHOWCASE,* Hawkman and Adam Strange take the spotlight in *#'s 101-103,* followed by *The Fabulous World of Krypton* in *#'s 104-106.* (And don't miss this month's fabulous 100th issue special while you're waiting!) . . . . That's all for now! Ta . . . **LANA.**

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